

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0061] FIG. 1 shows an example of a key top for a push-button switch. A key top 1 for a push-button switch is structured as follows. A color design image layer 3 is laminated on a back surface 2a of a key top main body 2 made of a transparent or semi-transparent resin via a bonding layer 4, and a transparent resin layer 5 is formed on the color design image layer 3. The key top 1 for a push-button switch is integrated into a ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 made of a rubber-like elastic body to serve as a key pad 7 with a key top for a push-button switch. --

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0066] The key top 1 for a push-button switch of this embodiment can be produced through the above steps. Furthermore, by bonding and curing the key top 1 for a push-button switch with the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6, the key pad 7 with a key top for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 1 can be obtained. --

Please replace paragraph [0082] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0082] That is, after the color design image layer 3 is formed, a predetermined transparent resin liquid is applied onto the surface of the color design image layer 3 by means of various methods such as a screen printing method, a pad printing method, a spray coating method, a potting method, and application with a dispenser, followed by leaving for a predetermined time period. Then, the transparent resin liquid is deposited and cured onto the color design image layer 3, thereby forming the transparent resin layer 5. The above procedure provides the transparent resin layer 5 which is laminated on the color design image layer 3 while penetrating into a gap of the color design image layer 3, thereby making it possible to obtain a

color design image with high transparency. The transparent resin liquid has functions of making the color design image layer 3 transparent, of protecting the color design image layer 3, and of being an adhesive with the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6. In the present specification, in addition to "colorless and transparent", and "colored and transparent", "semi-transparent" may be included in the term "transparent" of the transparent resin liquid. However, a colorless and transparent or colored and transparent resin with high transparency is preferable. --

Please replace paragraph [0085] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0085] That is, in the case where an active energy ray curing type resin liquid is used, an effect is obtained in that the color design image layer 3 becomes transparent as long as the time period for leaving is set to be long even if a resin liquid to be used has a considerably high viscosity. Therefore, even in the case where the transparent resin layer 5 is allowed to function as a bonding layer for bonding the key top 1 for a push-button switch to the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6, after application of the transparent resin liquid, the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 may be bonded, followed by leaving for a predetermined time period. Bonding and curing of the key top 1 to the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 can be performed by applying an active energy ray after a lapse of the predetermined time period. However, in view of the fact that the steps from application to curing of the transparent resin liquid are performed in a series of production steps for the key pad 7 with a key top for a push-button switch, the viscosity of the active energy ray curing type resin liquid at 25 °C. preferably ranges from 1×10^{-2} Pa • s to 20.0 Pa • s, more preferably ranges from 0.1 Pa • s to 5.0 Pa • s. The reason why the viscosity within such a range is preferable is as follows. If the viscosity ranges from 1×10^{-2} Pa • s to 20.0 Pa • s, the time period for leaving ranges from 0.5 seconds to 3 hours, and an operating time for penetration into the image carrying layer 8 is at an appropriate level. If the viscosity ranges from 0.1 Pa • s to 5.0 Pa • s, the time period for leaving ranges from 10 seconds to 60 minutes. Thus, operation efficiency is excellent and transparency is enhanced. The term "time period for leaving" of the transparent resin liquid in the above description refers to a time period when the transparent resin liquid is left at 25 °C. The time period for leaving may vary if a temperature at which the transparent resin liquid is left is changed. Although the reason why leaving is necessary remains uncertain, penetration of a

resin into a gap of the coloring agent layer 4 is expected to reduce light scattering, thereby making the coloring agent layer 10 transparent. Therefore, a time period enough for the transparent resin liquid to penetrate into the coloring agent layer 10 might be given. --

Please replace paragraph [0090] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0090] A transparent resin liquid can be used as an adhesive for bonding the key top 1 for a push-button switch to the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6. In the case where an active energy ray curing type resin liquid or a thermosetting resin liquid is used, the resin liquid is applied onto the color design image layer 3. Then, the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 is brought into contact with the surface of the layer, followed by leaving for a predetermined time period. Then, an active energy ray or heat is applied to the resin liquid for curing. --

Please replace paragraph [0091] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0091] The key top 1 for a push-button switch in which the color design image layer 3 is formed is bonded to and integrated into the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 utilizing a rubber-like elastic body such as natural rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, silicone rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, or a thermoplastic elastomer (hereinafter, referred to as "TPE"), thereby providing the key pad 7 with a key top for a push-button switch. Examples of the TPE include a styrene based TPE, an olefin based TPE, an ester based TPE, and a urethane based TPE. --

Please replace paragraph [0094] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0094] A translucent material is preferably used if an illumination type key top is to be prepared. A thickness of the coloring auxiliary layer 22 is preferably 1 to 30 μm . If the thickness is less than 1 μm , an effect of complementing a color such as a white color or a silver color is insufficient. On the other hand, if the thickness exceeds 30 μm , a coloring

complementing effect receives no further improvement, and at the same time, translucency deteriorates. The coloring auxiliary layer 22 is formed by printing or the like after the formation of the transparent resin layer 5. The coloring auxiliary layer 22 may be formed by laminating layers of different colors. The key top 21 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 9 can be bonded to and integrated into the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 to provide a key pad 23 with a key top for a push-button switch. --

Please replace paragraph [0095] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0095] In a key top 31 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 10, the color design image layer 3 is formed on a surface 2b side of the key top main body 2 made of a resin. The coloring auxiliary layer 22 is also formed on the surface 2b side of the key top main body 2. The key top 31 for a push-button switch can be formed by applying the coloring auxiliary layer 22 onto the surface 2b side of the key top main body 2 and then by transferring the color design image layer 3 onto the coloring auxiliary layer 22. The key top 31 for a push-button switch can be bonded to and integrated into the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 to provide a key pad 32 with a key top for a push-button switch. --

Please replace paragraph [0096] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0096] A key top 41 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 11 is provided with the coloring auxiliary layer 22 on the back surface 2a of the key top main body 2. The key top 41 has the same structure as that of the key top 31 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 10 except that the coloring auxiliary layer 22 has shifted from the surface 2b of the key top main body to the back surface 2a of the key top main body. The key top 41 for a push-button switch can be bonded to and integrated into the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 to provide a key pad 42 with a key top for a push-button switch. --

Please replace paragraph [0097] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0097] A key top 51 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 12 has the coloring auxiliary layer 22 laminated on the coloring agent layer 10. That is, the coloring agent layer 10 is formed on the substrate sheet 9. Then, the coloring auxiliary layer 22 is printed thereon, followed by transfer. The key top 51 for a push-button switch can be bonded to and integrated into the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 to provide a key pad 52 with a key top for a push-button switch. -

Please replace paragraph [0098] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0098] A key top 61 for a push-button switch shown in FIG. 13 is obtained by a method in which the step of providing the transparent resin layer 5 is performed not after transfer of the coloring agent layer 10 onto the key top main body 2 but before the transfer. The key top 61 for a push-button switch is produced in the same manner as in the above examples up to the step of forming the coloring agent layer 10 (FIGS. 1 to 3). Subsequently, a transparent resin liquid having a predetermined viscosity is applied onto the surface of the coloring agent layer 10, followed by leaving for a predetermined time period determined according to the kind ~~an~~ of viscosity of the transparent resin liquid. Next, the transparent resin layer 5 is formed while the transparent resin liquid is allowed to permeate into a porous material forming the coloring agent layer 10 (FIG. 14). Then, the adhesive 4 is applied onto the surface of the transparent resin layer 5 (FIG. 15). Alternatively, the adhesive 4 is applied onto the back surface 2a of the key top main body 2 (FIG. 16). The case where the adhesive is applied onto the surface of the transparent resin layer 5 is continuously described. The substrate sheet 9 is brought into press-contact with the key top main body 2 (FIG. 17). Then, the coloring agent layer 10 is transferred onto the key top main body 2 by using a method such as hot stamping, and the substrate sheet 9 is peeled (FIG. 18). In this way, the key top 61 for a push-button switch is produced. Moreover, bonding and curing of the key top 61 with the ~~key pad 6~~ base sheet 6 results in a key pad 62 with a key top for a push-button switch (FIG. 13). --